

146 [HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.] *NOSCJS TETPSUM!*
[^sfJ_p]S^a

If ought can teach us ought, Affliction's
looks (Making us look into ourselves so
near) Teach us to *know ourselves*,
beyond all books ! Or all the learned
Schools that ever were !

This Mistress, lately, plucked me by the
ear, And many a golden lesson hath
me taught! Hath made my Senses
quick, and Reason clear! Reformed my
Will, and rectified my Thought!

So do the winds and thunders cleanse
the air! So working seas settle and
purge the wine! So lopt and pruned
trees do flourish fair! So doth the
fire the drossy gold refine !

Neither MINERVA, nor the learned Muse,
Nor Rules of Art, nor Precepts of the
Wise, Could in my brain, those beams
of skill infuse, As but the glance of this
Dame's angry eyes.

She, within lists, my ranging mind hath
brought. That now beyond myself I
list not go ! Myself am Centre of my
circling thought! Only Myself, I
study, learn, and know!

I *know* my Body's of so frail a kind,
As force without, fevers within,
can kill! I *know* the heavenly
nature of my Mind ; But 'tis
corrupted, both in Wit and Will!

I *know* my Soul hath power to know all
things, Yet is she blind and
ignorant in all! I *know* I am one of
Nature's little kings, Yet to the
least and vilest things am thrall!

I *know* my Life's a pain, and but a span !
I *know* my Sense is mocked with every
thing ! And to conclude, I *know* myself
a Man ; Which is a proud, and yet a
wretched thing !